

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 05684 121511Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SY-05 EUR-12 FBIE-00 USSS-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 /051 W

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R 121430Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1129

S E C R E T QUITO 5684

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS COL ARG

SUBJ: COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
OF SELF-STYLED ARGENTINE TERRORIST

1. THE COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR ASKED ME FOR ASSISTANCE
IN OBTAINING INFORMATION ON RODOLFO AUGUSTO CORTESE-WEIGEL.
CORTESE, WHO CLAIMS TO BE ARGENTINE, WAS ARRESTED RECENTLY
IN GUAYAQUIL AS AN ILLEGAL ALIEN AND FOR OTHER CRIMES.
HE CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN A BODYGUARD OF FORMER PRESIDENT
MARIA ESTELA PERON, AS WELL AS A MEMBER OF THE RIGHT-WING
AAA TERRORIST GROUP. HAS BEEN 6-8 MONTHS IN ECUADOR.

2. CORTESE CLAIMS TO HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF WHEREABOUTS OF
THE SWISS CONSUL IN CALI (FNU) LEUPIN, WHO WAS KIDNAPPED
TWO YEARS AGO. IN EXCHANGE FOR DROPPING OF THE ECUADOREAN
CHARGES AGAINST HIM AND RESIDENCE IN COLOMBIA, CORTESE HAS
OFFERED TO "DELIVER" LEUPIN TO THE COLOMBIANS. HE ALSO
CLAIMS TO HAVE EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE ON GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES
IN COLOMBIA. OTHERWISE, CORTESE IS TO BE DEPORTED TO
ARGENTINA.

3. CORTESE SAYS HIS FATHER, FROM WHO HE IS ESTRANGED,
IS LT. COL. RODOLFO MARIO CORTESE-WEIGEL WHO, HE SAYS,
IS ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE COMANDO GENERAL DEL EJERCITO,
ADDRESS: DEPTO. 303011 OCTAVO PISO, JEFATURA NO. 1,
BUENOS AIRES.

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PAGE 02 QUITO 05684 121511Z

4. THE COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR IS RELUCTANT TO ASK THE LOCAL ARGENTINE EMBASSY FOR INFORMATION BECAUSE "LATINS TALK TOO MUCH" AND BECAUSE THE GOA MIGHT NOT BE WILLING TO COOPERATE IN VIEW OF CORTESE'S ALLEGED CONNECTION WITH MRS. PERON. THE AMBASSADOR HAS ASKED ME IF EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES COULD (A) VERIFY THE EXISTENCE AND POSITION OF CORTESE'S FATHER AND (B) SUPPLY ANY OTHER INFORMATION ON CORTESE THAT MIGHT BE AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY, ALL THIS WITHOUT ANY INQUIRIES OR ACTION BY THE EMBASSY THAT IT WOULD CONSIDER INAPPROPRIATE.

5. I WOULD LIKE TO HELP THE COLOMBIAN, WHO IS ONE OF MY MORE USEFUL CONTACTS AMONG THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND WHO HAS A GREAT INTEREST IN MATTIN#NARCOTICS AND HAS BEEN VERY ACTIVE LOCALLY IN INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE DURG PROBLEM. I THEREFORE WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION I CAN PASS ON TO HIM ABOUT CORTESE.
BLOOMFIELD

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976QUITO05684
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760310-1287
From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760860/aaaacaiw.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUL 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST FOR INFORMATION OF SELF-STYLED ARGENTINE TERRORIST
TAGS: PINS, CO, AR, US, (CORTESE WEIGEL, RODOLFO AUGUSTO)
To: BUENOS AIRES
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006